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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,487	11/27/2001	Daisuke Koreeda	P21352	7113

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EXAMINER

PYO, KEVIN K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/993,487

Applicant(s)

KOREEDA, DAISUKE

Examiner

Kevin Pyo

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 .
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____ .

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 8, line 13, "6a, 6b, 6c" should be changed to --6b, 6c, 6d--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ota et al.

Regarding claim 1, Ota et al shows in Fig.1 the following elements of applicant's claim:

a) a laser source (1) for emitting a laser beam; b) a scanning deflector (4, 7) that deflects the laser beam; c) an imaging optical system (6, 8b, 8c) that converges that scanning laser beam onto an object surface; and d) first and second mirrors (12a and 13a; 12b and 13b) that bend the optical path of the scanning laser beam, said first and second mirrors being movable to adjust the optical path length between said deflector and said object surface for changing a width of the scanning range on said object surface (col.4, lines 1-9).

Regarding claim 2, the limitation therein is disclosed in col.4, lines 7-13.

Regarding claim 3, Ota et al shows in Fig.1 that the optical path between said deflector (7) and said first mirror (12a, 12b) intersects the optical path between said second mirror (13a, 13b) and said object surface (21b, 21c).

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Regarding claim 7, the limitation therein is shown in Fig. 1

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota et al.

Regarding claim 4, the specific configuration of optic elements used for equalizing the optical path lengths would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of design requirements and the desired performance.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the first and second mirrors as a single-piece in view of the desire for downsizing the scanning device.

Regarding claim 8, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to move the lens element (8b) of Ota et al with the movement of the second mirror (13a) in view of the effective performance of providing a scanned laser beam onto the desired location of the photoreceptor (21b).

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Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hama et al and Ohno et al are cited for disclosing a multi-beam scanning device.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Pyo whose telephone number is 703-308-4841. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (with flexible hour), First Mon. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on 703-308-4852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Kevin Pyo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2878

pkk
8/25/03